TRAPPED IN A WORLD HE'S GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO
HOWARD the DUCK #4
A MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS TIE-IN
A DEADPOOL'S SECRET SECRET WARS TIE-IN
NOT A SECRET WARS TIE-IN
ZDARSKY
QUINONES
COOK
RIVERA
ROSENBERG
MARVEL

HOWARD the DUCK

THIS IS HOWARD. HOWARD **THE DUCK,** IN FACT! HOW DID HE GET THAT NAME, YOU ASK? WELL, UH, BECAUSE HE'S A DUCK? CAN YOU SERIOUSLY NOT TELL? I MEAN, HE'S ON THE COVER WITH HIS FEATHERS AND BILL AND EVERYTHING. ANYWAY, IN ADDITION TO BEING A DUCK, HE'S ALSO TRAPPED HERE ON EARTH AND TRYING TO REMAIN **SENSIBLE** IN A **WORLD GONE MAD!**

HOWARD'S HAD A REAL ROUGH COUPLE DAYS. HE WAS HIRED TO RECOVER A STOLEN NECKLACE FOR A MYSTERIOUS CLIENT NAMED MR. RICHARDS (TOTALLY NOT HIS REAL NAME), BUT THEN THINGS GOT WEIRD WHEN HE RETRIEVED THE NECKLACE AND WAS IMMEDIATELY TAKEN TO SPACE PRISON! THANKFULLY, HE ENDED UP ESCAPING WITH A TALKING RACCOON NAMED ROCKET RACCOON! (ANTHROPOMORPHIC ANIMALS ARE NOT VERY CREATIVE AT NAMES.)

BACK ON EARTH WITH THE STOLEN NECKLACE IN HAND, HOWARD WAS THEN PROMPTLY MUGGED BY SPIDER-MAN'S AUNT MAY. OH NO! WAIT -- WHAT?? IT TURNS OUT THAT THE ELDERLY OF NEW YORK WERE ACTUALLY PAWNS OF THE RINGMASTER, WHO WAS HYPNOTIZING THEM TO VERY SLOWLY AND GINGERLY ROB PEOPLE!

THANKFULLY, MR. RICHARDS SHOWED UP TO SAVE THE DAY AND RECOVER HIS NECKLACE! BUT THEN HE REVEALED TO HOWARD AND HIS NEW FRIEND TARA TAM THAT HE WAS **NOT** MR. RICHARDS (I TOLD YOU!), HE WAS ACTUALLY TALOS THE UNTAMED! WHO IS THAT, YOU ASK? WELL, HE APPEARS TO BE A SKRULL WHO WEARS MAKEUP AND DISGUISES INSTEAD OF SHAPESHIFTING LIKE NORMAL SKRULLS DO. WEIRD! WHAT'S NEXT -- A TALKING DUCK?? OH. RIGHT...

JOE QUINONES
COVER ARTIST
ED McGUINNESS & RICO RENZI; JASON LATOUR
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
CHIP ZDARSKY
RECAP PAGE ARTIST
JON MOISAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR
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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
HOWARD THE DUCK
CREATED BY **STEVE GERBER & VAL MAYERIK**

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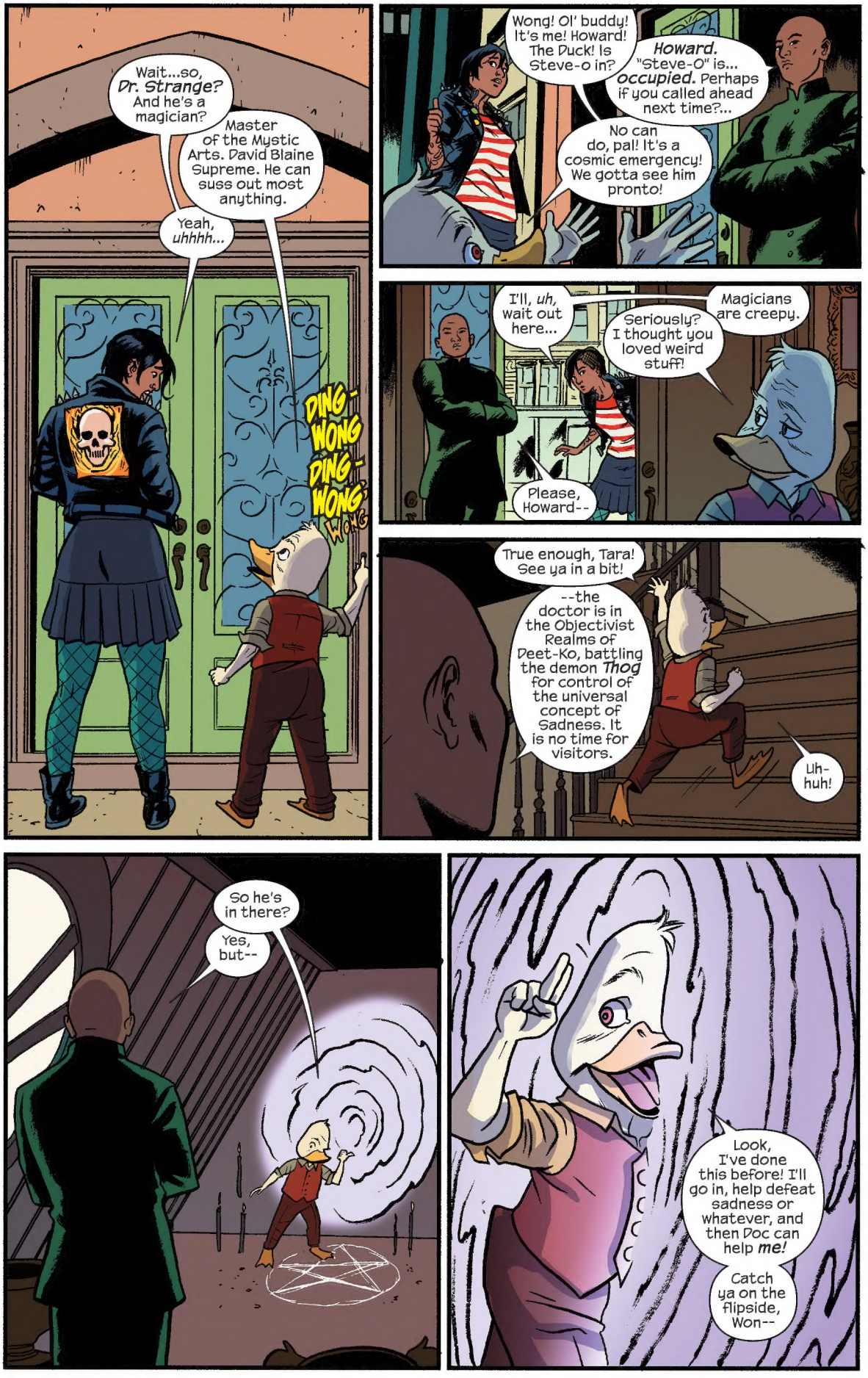
I hate you.
DR. STRANGER in a DR. STRANGE LAND
BROUGHT TO YOU BY...
CHIP "STAN LEE" ZDARSKY: WRITER
JOE "STANLEY LIEBER" QUIÑONES: ARTIST
JOE "THE MAN" RIVERA: ADDTL. INKS
RICO "EXCELSIOR" RENZI &
RACHELLE "FACE FRONT" ROSENBERG: COLOR ARTISTS
TRAVIS "TRUE BELIEVER" LANHAM: LETTERER
Gee, Mike, sorry if I happened to rescue senior citizens from a mind-controlling monster! For free, I might add!
Yeah, well, you should have called us before bursting in with three feet of intimidation. We may have been able to take in this... Talos? Talos the...
--Tamed. Whatever that means.
All right, so after he punched Ringmister here and (sigh) revealed himself to be a Skrull, what happened?
I remember it like it was yesterday...
It happened half an hour ago.

"He just started blathering that 'super villain' blather, y'know? Telling us who he is, what he's doing, why he's doing it, blah, blah, blah..."
--and, unlike my Skrull brethren, I am unable to shapeshift! But I shall prove my worth to the Empire soon! Once I--
"I probably should've let him keep talking to figure out where he was going next, but..."
--retrieve the final *Abundant Gem,* I will be invaluable to--
You... owe... me...
...two hundred and sixty dollars for services ren--
PAF
"Anyhoo, that's all I got."
And since I didn't break any *laws* and *saved some lives,* I'm outta here, Corson.
See ya--
...later.
Tara, what's *that guy's* problem?
Who cares?
Talk to ya later, Aunt May!

THE NEXT DAY IN NEW! YORK! CITYYYYY!
Hey-o! Thanks for the call! I like your style, duck! No rest for the wicked!
So, what's the next gig?
BOBO'S Discount LIQUORS
Very Good PIZZA
PIZZA
Well...
...I think I'm still working on the jewel case.
What? You found it! And returned it! And, yeah, you got stiffed. But you ain't taking a defective Skrull on to Judge Judy, duck.
Yeah, yeah, money go poof. But...I don't know, kid. If this Talos guy gets that last jewel and, like, takes over Earth or something, I'm gonna feel pretty responsible...
Ohhhhh, you're one of those guilt ducks. Got it.
So, how are we gonna find it before he does?
I got a doctor friend who might be able to help.*
Thanks, Obamacare! Who is he?
*Ed. Note: See: The Cover.
GREENWICH VILLAGE, NYC.
Yes, it's a village inside a city, just go with it.
DING-WONG


Wait...so, Dr. Strange? And he's a magician?
Master of the Mystic Arts. David Blaine Supreme. He can suss out most anything.
Yeah, uhhhh...
DING-WONG DING-WONG WONG
Wong! Ol' buddy! It's me! Howard! The Duck! Is Steve-o in?
Howard. "Steve-O" is... occupied. Perhaps if you called ahead next time?...
No can do, pal! It's a cosmic emergency! We gotta see him pronto!
I'll, uh, wait out here...
Seriously? I thought you loved weird stuff!
Magicians are creepy.
Please, Howard--
True enough, Tara! See ya in a bit!
--the doctor is in the Objectivist Realms of Deet-Ko, battling the demon Thog for control of the universal concept of Sadness. It is no time for visitors.
Uh-huh!
So he's in there?
Yes, but--
Look, I've done this before! I'll go in, help defeat sadness or whatever, and then Doc can help me!
Catch ya on the flipside, Won--

--g.
O-Okay, Howard. Just get your...your bearings, and find your man. Simple stuff. Just...just ignore the crumbling reality.
Sheesh, you really appreciate the grid-like nature of NYC when you're floating in another dimension--
ARE YOU HERE FOR...THE GAME?

Waugh! Uh...no?
THE GAME
THE GAME
BUT IF YOU ARE HERE, YOU MUST BE HERE FOR THE GAME.
Hey! Wait a minute!
THE GAME
CHOK
Hi-ya!
THE GAME
THE GAME
I'm not here to play some stupid-- arg! Game!
THE GAME
WAUGHHHHH--

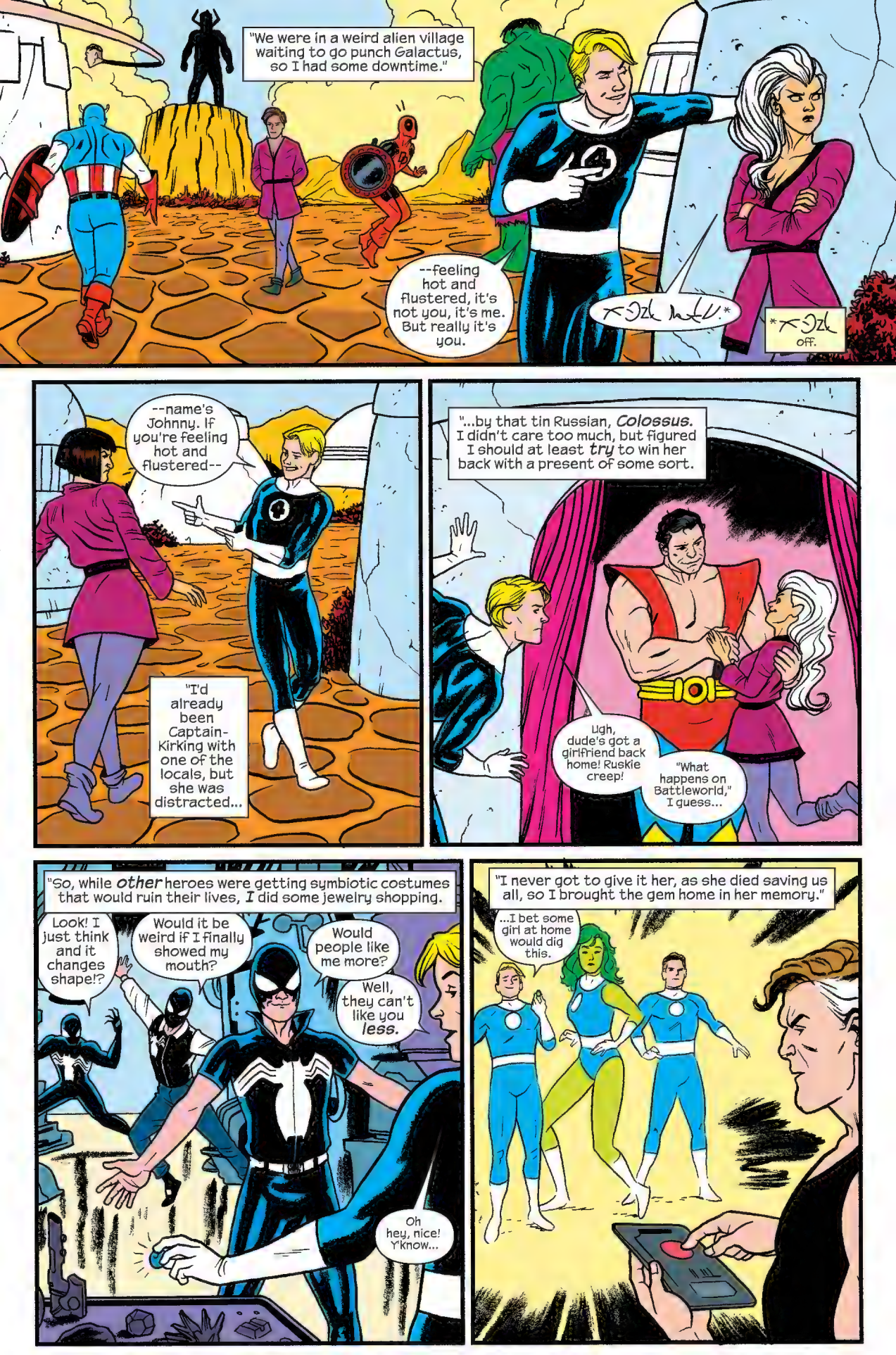
--HHhhhh...
I fold.
Ha ha! Thog is the master of deceit and chips!
Howard? What are you doing here?
Wong told me you were doing...battle? With Thog? But this is--what? Like some kind of Illuminati meeting?
No no no definitely not.
Everyone, play this hand without me!
Cool.
I...sometimes Wong can be a little...annoying, so I come here and confer with my, uh, contemporaries.
And gamble a bit.
What do you need, Howard?
A job went haywire. Now some Skrull has made off with something called ... an "Abundant Gem"? 'Zat ring any bells, Doc?
Hm. Let us return to my Sanctum.
Thanks for the money, Strange! You should take your Eye of Agamotto to the optometrist so you can see your cards properly next time!
Ha ha ha may your soul rot in the thirteenth level of Hell!

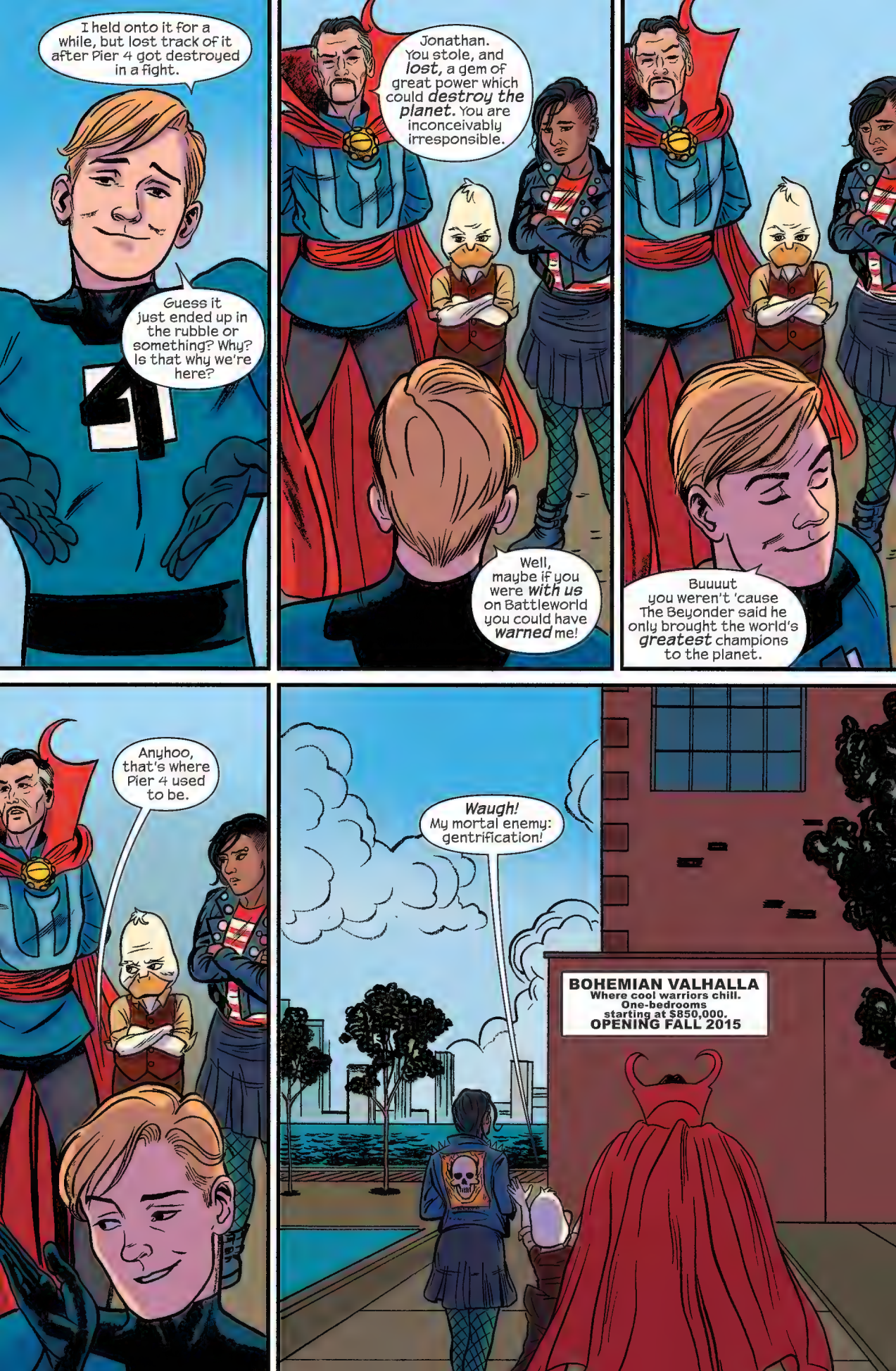
Stephen! I trust all went well with dispatching the Nether-Spawn Thog?
Ah, yes. Yes, he was bested. All is well.
Yeah! In fact, I arrived just in time and managed to save the doc's life! Thog really had him on the ropes in there until I showed up-- ain't that right, Doc?
...Yes. Howard... saved my life...
Then I am forever in your debt, Howard.
If either of you have need of me, I will be tending to the Sorrow Plants of Narticus in the garden.
Thank you, Wong.
Ah. I think I've found what you're looking for, Howard.
Lay it on me, Doc.

There is a series of gems that come together to form the most powerful weapon in the universe:
The Infinity Gauntlet.
But, there is also a series of lesser-known gems, which form The Abundant Glove. They are...
Compassion.
Laughter.
Dance.
Respect.
A second Dance Gem.
Individually, they do very little, but together they can make someone marginally powerful.
Marginal like, "destroy the only world I've ever known since my last one"?
...yes. Potentially.
Oh man, this is my fault! He wouldn't be so close if I hadn't led him right to one of them!
The gems naturally gravitate towards each other, Howard. It would've happened without you, I'm certain.
Now let's see if I can tap into the ether and see where it is...
I... there is superfluous cosmic energy clouding it, but it appears to be somewhere down by the... Hudson River...I also sense a connection to ...

...A MAN ON FIRE?...
A...a shopping plaza?
Pier 4 was the Fantastic Four's headquarters for a while, down by the Hudson! The "flaming man" has to be the Human Torch!
A-ha! I got it! Pier 4!
Hm. Excellent work, Howard.
Don't sound so shocked, Doc.
Master! Shall I accompany you to the river, or--
--No! Just...call Jonathan Storm of the Fantastic Four and let him know we require his presence down by his old Pier 4 headquarters, Wong.
Oh, hey, Doc. Meet Tara. Tara, Dr. Straaaaaaange. Should we hail a taxi or--
Ah! I. Hi.
The only "taxis" we require...
...are the Winds of Mnemonoto!
Ahhh!
This is crazy, I--huh. Do these "Winds of Menudo" always smell like...car air freshener?
It's...an unfortunate side effect, yes.
Eep.

SOON. SHORTLY. SOONLY.
The Hudson River. I can try to sense the gem's location, but the Human Torch's presence would help narrow it down...
Yeah, well good luck with that. Pretty sure the Torch ain't the most reliable hothead going--
Flame onnnnn, I'm gonnnne...
I'm so sweet like a nice bon bonnnn...
Hey, hey! The Defenders are lookin' good these days, Doc!
Speakin' of lookin' good...
Heyyy, name's Johnny. If you're feeling hot and flustered, it's not you, it's me. But really it's you.
Oh, for...the only "heat" ladies feel with you will need three rounds of antibiotics.
Jonathan, this is serious. Can you recall, during the time before Pier 4, owning a gem collected from one of your adventures?
Uhhh, hm. Yeah, during that crazy time on "Battleworld," the planet cobbled together by the god-like dude named "The Beyonder."*
*Ed. Note: The original Secret Wars.


"We were in a weird alien village waiting to go punch Galactus, so I had some downtime."
--feeling hot and flustered, it's not you, it's me. But really it's you.
Ugh, what?
Ugh, what? off.
--name's Johnny. If you're feeling hot and flustered--
"I'd already been Captain-Kirking with one of the locals, but she was distracted...
"...by that tin Russian, Colossus. I didn't care too much, but figured I should at least try to win her back with a present of some sort.
Ugh, dude's got a girlfriend back home! Ruskie creep!
"What happens on Battleworld," I guess...
"So, while other heroes were getting symbiotic costumes that would ruin their lives, I did some jewelry shopping.
Look! I just think and it changes shape!?
Would it be weird if I finally showed my mouth?
Would people like me more?
Well, they can't like you less.
Oh hey, nice! Y'know...
"I never got to give it her, as she died saving us all, so I brought the gem home in her memory."
...I bet some girl at home would dig this.


I held onto it for a while, but lost track of it after Pier 4 got destroyed in a fight.
Guess it just ended up in the rubble or something? Why? Is that why we're here?
Jonathan. You stole, and *lost,* a gem of great power which could *destroy the planet.* You are inconceivably irresponsible.
Well, maybe if you were *with us* on Battleworld you could have *warned* me!
Buuuut you weren't 'cause The Beyonder said he only brought the world's *greatest* champions to the planet.
Anyhoo, that's where Pier 4 used to be.
Waugh! My mortal enemy: gentrification!
BOHEMIAN VALHALLA
Where cool warriors chill.
One-bedrooms starting at $850,000.
OPENING FALL 2015

I shall use the Eye of Agamotto to try and find it...
Uh, I'll be over here.
So, tattoos, eh? Very cool.
Flame off.
BOHEMIAN VALHALLA
Where cool warriors chill.
One-bedrooms starting at $250,000.
OPENING FALL 2015
The Eye! It's pulling me towards... here!
The gem must be trapped under the corner of this shoddily constructed status symbol!
KRAKOOM!
Waugh! How the hell're we gonna get to--

Nnnhhh... what the hell??
By the hoary host...
H-Howard... What...are...
Hold it steady! I see the gem!
...too...too dangerous...
KR-RRRN
The building! Run! Run!
Wait!
Just a--
--Wait! Where's it going?
Just a little bit more, Doc!

POP
I got this!
ZZAP
NGH!
I...
We gotta run, kid! This is out of our league!
Waugh!
Where are you rushing to, duck?
FRZAM

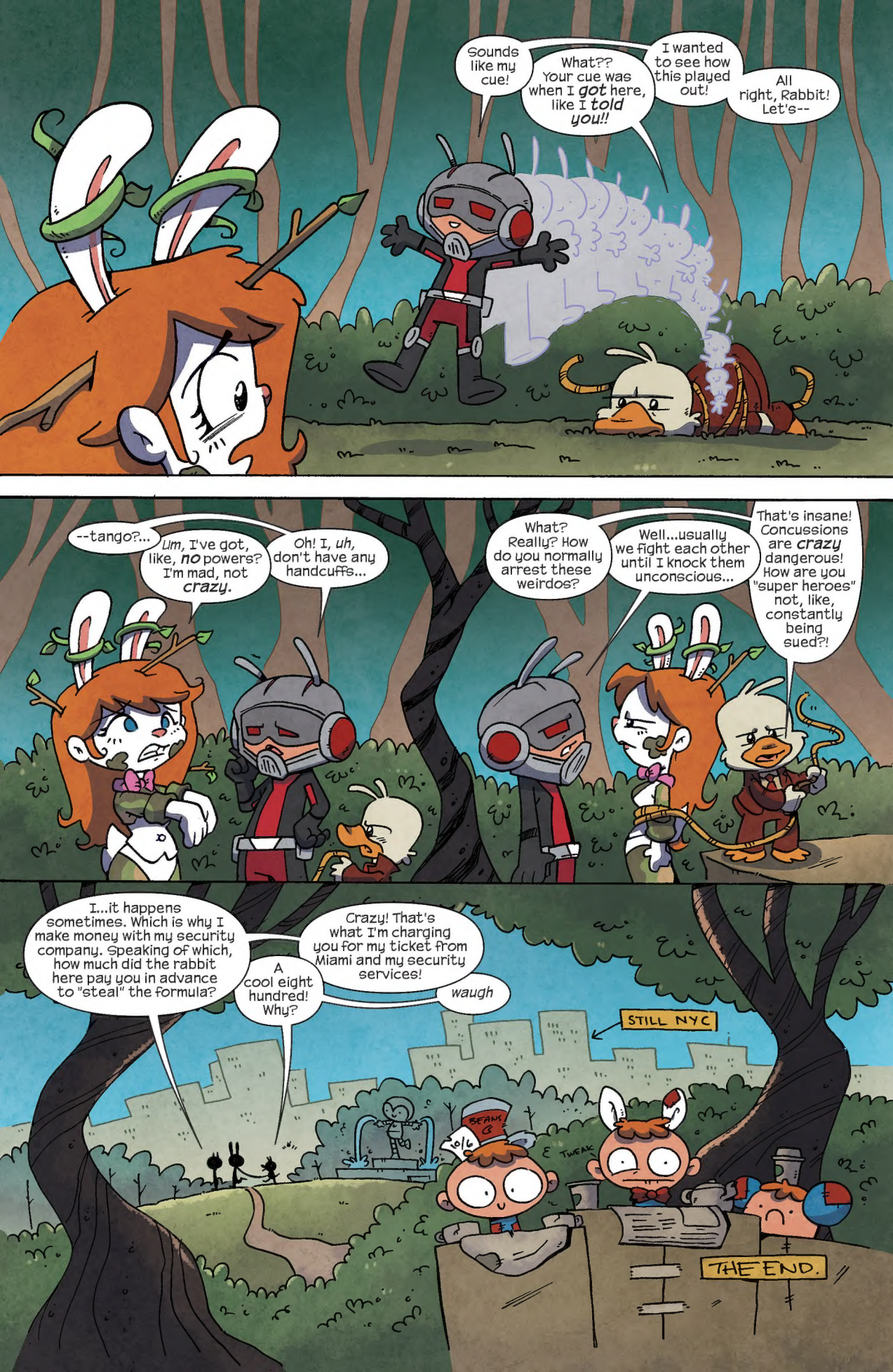
Don't you want to witness the beginning of... The Talos Empire?
...unhhh...
Uh, Torch? Gonna need you to call for backup...
NEXT ISSUE! THE BATTLE FOR EARTH, NBD!

LOGIC and PROPORTION

by CHIP ZDARSKY (story guy), KATIE COOK (art gal), HEATHER BRECKEL (color lady), and TRAVIS LANHAM (lettering gent)

Ugh, nature.
Hey! Rabbit-Lady! I got what you're looking for! Where--
Welcome...
NYC
...to our coffee party.
BEANS
Parrrrrrtyyyy...
Uh, hey, guys. Sorry to interrupt this, uh, stupid thing, but have you seen my client...
...the White Rabbit??
JUMP OUT!
Waugh! What the hell?? You hired me!
TIE UP!
Well, maybe I hired you to be tied up in the forest, ever think of that?
Now where's the formula, dodo?

In my jacket pocket!
Y'wanna tell me *now* why I'm lifting secret formulas from my *very good friends* in The Avengers?
Well! In case you hadn't noticed--
parrrrrrtyyyy...
BEANS
10/6
URP!
--my, like, super-villain *thing* is *Alice in Wonderland,* right? *So,* if I'm going to go all in, I need delicious cakes that make me small--
--as an Ant-Man? So this "Pym Particles" formula will make you into, what? *The White Ant Rabbit?* Seems convoluted. Is that really in the book?
Gah! It's a *really* good book! Why hasn't everyone read it??
I liked when Doreen melts the witch and the monkeys.
...Wait a second...
This is just a recipe for cake!
WACK
Waugh! It's a low-fat recipe though! Helped me shrink a bit in the ol' waistline after I binged on too much bread!*
*Ed. Note: Bread makes you fat! Last issue!
I should've known you'd double-cross me! Well, I guess I'll have to settle for my *other* obsession: rare eggs! You're pretty rare, right? Your eggs must be too!
Ahh! I'm a *man* duck! There's no eggs in me!! *No eggs!!! HELLLLP!!!*


Sounds like my cue!
What?? Your cue was when I got here, like I told you!!
I wanted to see how this played out!
All right, Rabbit! Let's--
--tango?...
Um, I've got, like, no powers? I'm mad, not crazy.
Oh! I, uh, don't have any handcuffs...
What? Really? How do you normally arrest these weirdos?
Well...usually we fight each other until I knock them unconscious...
That's insane! Concussions are crazy dangerous! How are you "super heroes" not, like, constantly being sued?!
I...it happens sometimes. Which is why I make money with my security company. Speaking of which, how much did the rabbit here pay you in advance to "steal" the formula?
A cool eight hundred! Why?
Crazy! That's what I'm charging you for my ticket from Miami and my security services!
waugh
STILL NYC
BEANS
TWEAK
THE END.

FEATHER REGIONS

Hey everybody! Thrilled with the love y'all are showing this here talking-duck book. We recently had to go back for a third printing of #1 and a second printing of #2! (Both of which are available now!) Chip and Joe like to add a little extra to the covers of the new printings -- for instance, check out all the fun stuff Joe added to the #2 second printing:

And before we get to the letters, Jon and I wanted to extend our thanks to Katie Cook for drawing this issue's adorable backup! Katie's fantastic -- for more of her work, check out www.katiecandraw.com.

All right, on to your letters!

So I haven't written in about a comic before but I had to for HOWARD THE DUCK #1.

Amazing. I was actually laughing out loud. My wife asked me what was going on so I had to read it out loud to her, which made me laugh more.

Just a huge thank you. I can't wait to keep reading this. It's a monthly title I will be counting down the days for.

Congrats, guys, keep up the hilarity!!

Dion Northall

I'm gonna be honest: I expected squat from a book about some talking duck that I mainly know from the GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY end credits scene.

But, being a collector of first issues, I had to gets me a copy of HOWARD THE DUCK #1, and upon reading, I found a funny and clever story featuring a smart-ass like me. Who also happens to be a duck.

So, thanks to you folks, I'm going to be blowing even more money on comics because this book is amazing.

Quack quack,

"Quack" Goettemoeller

P.S. I absolutely loved the Spider-Man Bing joke. As well as the Rocket Raccoon cameo. As well as, well, everything.

Croeso, Ducklings (that's "Hello" in Welsh - one of the five words I know in my native language),

I just wanted to say "thanks gang!" for a great first two issues. I started buying comics at the unfortunately late age of 19 (in the year 2007). Not really knowing what I was doing the first time I stepped in a comic shop, I found a copy of HOWARD THE DUCK #15 (1977 - 11 years before I was born) in a long box. I didn't understand what in the hell it was, but the ridiculous cover made me chuckle so I took a punt on it.

As soon as I read that classic intro ("From the time of his hatchling, he was... different") I instantly fowl in love. I've spent be the past eight years tracking down Steve Gerber's run, and now I only need ADVENTURE INTO FEAR #19 and GIANT-SIZE MAN-THING (chuckle) #4 and #5 to finish my collection.

So when I heard a new series was coming out written by the artist of SEX CRIMINALS, I was very happy but then apprehensive. "Oh so he draws a successful indie book and now he thinks he can be a writer." But thank goodness, it turns out that I'm an idiot for ever thinking that. Chip's writing is spot on, fresh and funny with a subtle pinch of "essence de Gerber," and Joe Quinones' art is just perfect. PERFECT. (I think I might frame Chris Samnee's #2 variant cover too - gets funnier every time I look at Howard's face.)

Here's hoping for at least 27 issues in this run. (Oh...and a movie!)

Much love,
Jack Cooper
Cardiff, Wales

Hi, Chip:

Hey, Chip. I admire your words and your pictures, and I imagine that you're a pretty nice guy in person. Big fan -- professionally and casually.

In GIANT-SIZED MAN-THING #4, Howard the Duck stars in a story called "Frog Death!" in which he goes toe-to-toe with Gorko the Man-Frog. It's superb.

But there's this thing that's been bothering me ever since I read all 68 giant pages in 1975 (I'm sorry, that's a lie, I just picked the book up like last week):

The cover of the issue says "Gorko, The Man-Frog." In the issue, though, it's "Garko." Which one is it, Chip? Is this like a Matt/Mike Murdock thing? Do Gorko and Garko both exist? Do they know about each other, Chip?

Giant-Sized Fan-Thing,
Adam

P.S. I wasn't sure how to start this letter. "Hi, Chip" sounds cordial but sterile, like a greeting card you get when you're in the hospital. "Hey, Chip" sounds maybe too immediately familiar, like we're close friends. I know that you're my friend, but I don't know how you feel about me and I don't want to assume. Also, my ex-girlfriend used to do this thing where she'd message me on Gchat and only say "hi," and man, that really made me anxious. "Hi" what? You've got to give me more than just that. I blew up about it, and we broke up. She dumped me by sending me a message on Gchat that only said "bye." I hated her for a little bit, but I can't ignore how clever that was.

Well, Adam, Chip doesn't actually answer these himself, so let me just give you his phone number and home addr--

Hey, Chip:

Hi. I'm sorry for the long letter. I Googled it, and it looks like his name is definitively "Garko." It took me maybe 20 seconds to look that up through Wikipedia; I should have just done that before I wrote you because the letter I sent took me a lot longer than 20 seconds.

Sorry for everything.
Thanks for everything.
Adam

Oh, never mind then!

Okay, that's it for this issue. We'll be back in six weeks for the big finale to our opening arc! In the meantime, go check out the insanely awesome Howard rap that Adam WarRock came up with at his site, www.adamwarrock.com.

Wil Moss

(HB, JM!)

NEXT:

Send e-mail to ***MHEROES@MARVEL.COM*** *(please mark as* ***OKAY TO PRINT****)*

BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE
FINCH